

**MINUTES OF THE  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, November 15, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W020 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair  
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Chair  
Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Sen. Scott D. McCoy  
Rep. D. Gregg Buxton  
Rep. Wayne A. Harper  
Rep. Patricia W. Jones  
Rep. David Litvack

Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart  
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro  
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove  
Rep. Paul Ray

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Last called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Killpack, Sen. Knudson, and Rep. Lockhart were absent for the vote.

**2. Pilot Program for Family Preservation Services**

Rep. Menlove discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Pilot Program for Family Preservation Services." The bill establishes a pilot program for the provision of family services to eligible people with disabilities and their families.

Mr. George Kelner, Division of Services to People with Disabilities, said the program would provide some time-limited services and respite care that could reduce the stress of those on the waiting list.

Chair Last turned the chair over to Sen. Christensen.

Ms. Joyce Dolcourt, The Arc of Utah, expressed her support for the proposed pilot program.

**MOTION:** Sen. McCoy moved to adopt "Pilot Program for Family Preservation Services" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Killpack, Sen. Knudson, and Rep. Lockhart were absent for the vote.

**3. Pilot Program for Day Support Services**

Rep. Menlove discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Pilot Program for Day Support Services." She indicated that families would pay for the services on a sliding scale fee. The bill would require a fiscal note of \$300,000 per year for two years.

Mr. Kelner said he believed the program would save the state money by providing the needed help to keep families from putting family members into a care facility.

Mr. Andrew Riggle, Disability Law Center, stated he was supportive of both proposed pilot programs. He stressed the need to look at more creative ways for providing services to those with disabilities.

**MOTION:** Rep. Jones moved to adopt "Pilot Program for Day Support Services" as a committee bill. The motion passed with Chair Christensen and Rep. Harper voting in opposition. Sen. Killpack and Rep. Lockhart were absent for the vote.

#### **4. Adoption**

Rep. Sheryl Allen discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Adoption Amendments." She said the bill makes adoption criteria more precise. She stated that the questions raised by the Committee at the last meeting have been addressed.

Mr. Larry Jenkins, Utah Adoption Council, distributed a list of sections of Utah Code affected by the legislation. He noted there is unanimous support from the council for the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Last moved to adopt "Adoption Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed with Rep. Harper voting in opposition. Sen. Killpack, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Lockhart were absent for the vote.

#### **5. Utah Commission on Aging—Legislation and Sunset Review**

Rep. Jones discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Commission on Aging." She stated that the duties of the Commission (Utah Commission on Aging) encompass a broad scope of issues, some of which include transportation, health care, and healthy lifestyles. The bill proposes to extend the Commission until July 1, 2009 and would require a fiscal note of \$180,000 per year.

Ms. Maureen Henry, Commission, spoke in support of changing oversight of the Commission to the University of Utah. The bill keeps in place the duties of the Commission.

Sen. Killpack and Rep. Lockhart expressed concern that continued funding of the Commission is providing seed money to another division that will be created in the future.

**MOTION:** Rep. Mascaro moved to adopt "Utah Commission on Aging" as a committee bill. The motion passed with Sen. Killpack and Rep. Lockhart voting in opposition. Rep. Harper was absent for the vote.

#### **6. Public Health Amendments**

Rep. Last discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Public Health Amendments." The bill clarifies changes made to the Communicable Disease and Control Act during the 2006 General Session.

Ms. Dupont explained the changes that had been made to the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Buxton moved to adopt "Public Health Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Killpack and Rep. Menlove were absent for the vote.

## **7. Foster Care Citizen Review Boards and Steering Committee—Sunset Review**

Ms. Patricia Worthington, Director, Utah Foster Citizen Review Board, stated citizen reviews provide the community with the responsibility and opportunity to monitor and support the safety, well-being, and permanency of the children in the child welfare system. She noted the system consists of over 1,250 citizen volunteers throughout the state.

**MOTION:** Rep. Harper moved to extend the board to July 1, 2009.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Litvack moved to extend the board to July 1, 2012. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Killpack and Rep. Lockhart were absent for the vote.

## **8. Suicide**

Rep. Harper discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Suicide Prevention Act." The bill proposes the creation of a task force to develop a statewide suicide prevention plan. He distributed a letter from Lisa-Michele Church, Department of Human Services, supporting the bill.

Mr. Ron Stromberg, Assistant Director, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, said much work has been done regarding youth suicide. Suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in Utah.

Dr. David Sundwall, Executive Director, Department of Health, endorsed the intent of the bill. He noted that the intermountain west has a significantly higher rate of suicide. He said it is essential to consider the American Indian population in the state who have a much higher percentage of suicide.

## **9. Access to Health Insurance in Utah**

Dr. Sundwall explained that nearly 300,000 Utahns are uninsured - 70,000 of them are children. He stated that the governor has asked the Department of Health to focus on children and making it easier for small businesses to obtain affordable health insurance. He reported on what progress has been made to date. He noted that CHIP enrollment is up almost 10,000 from a year ago. Dr. Sundwall said that they are considering a Utah health insurance exchange that could require an upfront cost of \$1.3-1.4 million.

Mr. Norm Thurston, Department of Health, commented that about 80 percent of what they want to do could probably be accomplished in the private market. An exchange may be required to allow the private market to do the rest.

## **10. Office of the Public Guardian**

Ms. Lori Bays, Office of Public Guardian, distributed several handouts regarding the office. She said the agency is responsible for providing public guardianship and conservatorship services to incapacitated adults. It is their goal to help the incapacitated person gain or regain the ability to make his or her own decisions, so that the person no longer needs a guardian.

### **11. Utah Birth Defects Network**

Mr. Stephen McDonald, Director of Program Services, March of Dimes Utah Chapter, explained that Utah is fortunate to have an outstanding birth defect monitoring program. However, Utah's birth defect network has struggled to survive over the years on patchwork funding. Ongoing state funding is needed in order to continue such a critical public health program.

### **12. Other Items / Adjourn**

Chair Christensen advised the Committee that the following reports had been distributed:

- Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel 2006 Annual Report (mailed prior to the meeting)
- Report of Outcomes of Utah's Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives (mailed prior to the meeting)
- Children's Health Insurance Program (mailed prior to the meeting)
- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (distributed at the beginning of the meeting)
- Medicaid Interim Committee Report (distributed at the beginning of the meeting)

**MOTION:** Rep. Lockhart moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.